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India taps to pay: How UPI became the game-changer



WORLD | PAGE 09

Israel accepts temporary Gaza ceasefire proposal

Signs off on 60-day Gaza proposal, which has been sent to Hamas, says White House



SPORT | PAGE 11

Satwik-Chirag beat world no. 1 Malaysian duo in S'pore Open

In a nutshell

ED Deputy Director held for bribery

NEW DELHI: The CBI has arrested a Deputy Director of the Enforcement Directorate in Odisha for allegedly taking a Rs 20 lakh bribe from a Bhubaneswar based businessman, officials said Friday. Chintan Raghuvanshi allegedly demanded Rs 5 crore from businessman Ratikanta Rout, who has a stone mining business in Dhenkanal, for giving him "relief" in an ED case registered against him. The agency conducted a trap operation following a tipoff. **PTI**

NEET-PG exam to be held in one shift

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday directed that the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Post Graduate (NEET-PG) 2025 examination, which is scheduled for June 15, be conducted in a single shift instead of two. It directed the authorities concerned to make arrangements for holding the exam in one shift and to ensure that complete transparency is maintained. It also said holding the examination in two shifts creates "arbitrariness". **PTI**

YouTuber arrested for bike trip to Pak

SURYAPET: Bayya Sunny Yadav, a Telugu YouTuber and travel vlogger from Suryapet, was arrested by the NIA at the Chennai International Airport on Thursday. The arrest was made in connection with his Pakistan trip and espionage concerns, officials said. Yadav's recent motorcycle trip to Pakistan, which he documented on his YouTube channel, raised national security concerns. NIA is probing if he was engaged in suspicious activities. **STATE PAGE 5**



Baahubali, RRR bag awards

Actor Murali Mohan announces names of Gaddar Award winners

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India's annual growth hits four-year low

Slump in manufacturing sector pulls down growth rate to 6.5%; Q4 records 7.4%

PTI
NEW DELHI

India's economic growth slowed to 7.4 per cent in the January-March period, and pulled down the annual growth rate for 2024-25 to a four-year low of 6.5 per cent, mainly due to the manufacturing sector, official data showed on Friday.

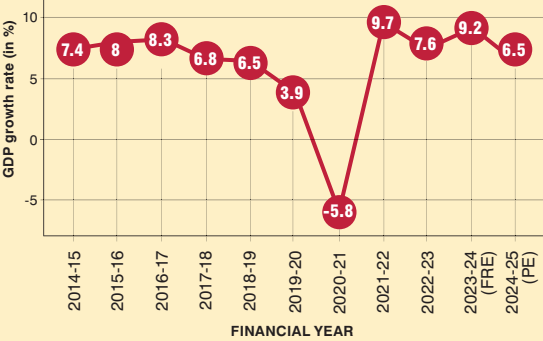
The size of the Indian economy rose to Rs 330.68 lakh crore or about USD 3.9 trillion and set the stage for achieving the USD 5 trillion target in the next few years. In the previous 2023-24 fiscal year, the economy grew 9.2 per cent.

China has registered an economic growth of 5.4 per cent in the first three months of 2025. The economic expansion was recorded at 7.4 per cent during January-March 2025, while it was 6.4 per cent in October-December 2024, 5.6 per cent in July-September 2024, and 6.5 per cent in the April-June quarter of the last financial year, according to economic estimates released by the National Statistics Office (NSO).

The GDP had expanded by 8.4 per cent in the January-March quarter of 2023-24. The NSO, in its second advance estimate released in February, had projected the GDP growth for 2024-25 at 6.5 per cent. "Real GDP or GDP at Constant Prices is estimated to attain a level of Rs 187.97 lakh crore in FY2024-25, against the First Revised Estimates (FRE) of GDP for FY2023-24 of Rs 176.51 lakh crore, registering a growth rate of 6.5 per cent.

INDIA'S GDP GROWTH RATE OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS

FROM FINANCIAL YEAR 2014-15 TO 2024-25



Slipping Away

ECONOMY THROUGH THE YEAR (FY 2024-25)

April-June	6.5%
July-Sept	5.6%
Oct-Dec	6.4%
Jan-March	7.4%
Annual growth rate	6.5%

- Indian economy rose to **Rs 330.68 lakh cr** (\$3.9 trillion)
- Set to achieve **\$5 trillion** target in next few years
- 9.2%** Growth in 2023-24 fiscal year

MANUFACTURING SECTOR

- Growth decelerated to **4.5%** from **12.3%** in 2023-24
- In Q4, output slowed to **4.8%** from **11.3%** in year-ago quarter

AGRICULTURE SECTOR

- Output increased to **4.6%** in 2024-25 compared to **2.7%** in preceding fiscal
- Growth accelerated to **5.4%** from **0.9%** final quarter of last fiscal

Source: National Statistics Office (NSO) Ministry of Statistics Programme Implementation (MoSP) *FRE: First revised estimates *PE: Provisional estimates

"Nominal GDP or GDP at current prices is estimated to attain a level of Rs 330.68 lakh crore in the FY 2024-25 against Rs 301.23 lakh crore in FY 2023-24, showing a growth rate of 9.8 per cent," the NSO said in a release.

It further said that real GDP or GDP at Constant Prices in the fourth quarter of 2024-25 is estimated at Rs 51.35 lakh crore against Rs 47.82 lakh crore in the year-ago quarter, registering a

growth rate of 7.4 per cent.

Nominal GDP in Q4 of FY2024-25 is estimated at Rs 88.18 lakh crore against Rs 79.61 lakh crore in Q4 of 2023-24, showing a growth rate of 10.8 per cent.

Real gross value added (GVA) is estimated at Rs 171.87 lakh crore in the FY 2024-25, against the FRE for the FY 2023-24 of Rs 161.51 lakh crore, registering a growth rate of 6.4 per cent. **(SEE PAGES 2, 8)**

BRS slams Revanth's Op Sindoor remarks

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

BRS leader Ravula Sridhar Reddy criticised Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for his irresponsible remarks on the Indian Army during the Congress' Jai Hind Yatra, warning against dragging the armed forces into political rhetoric.

He found fault with Revanth Reddy for questioning the Indian military's might to please the Congress high command. Addressing a press meet at Telangana Bhavan on Friday, Sridhar Reddy said Revanth Reddy claiming that

POK would have been merged with India if Rahul Gandhi was the Prime Minister, was a joke. He said it was the Congress that was responsible for the Kashmir issue in the first place.

"Fake patriotism must be called out. The entire nation must stand with the armed forces. The Chief Minister making such statements are detrimental to national security," he said. He said Rahul Gandhi is not even giving appointments to the Chief Minister, despite 30 trips to Delhi. Responding to a question, Sridhar Reddy ruled out the merger of BRS with the BJP.

Hyd man kills Goa casino guard, held

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

A rowdy-sheeter from the city, who is a regular at the casinos, was reportedly arrested by the local police for allegedly killing a security guard and injuring another after creating ruckus at a casino in Panaji on Thursday.

Abdul Altaf (25), who is listed as a rowdy sheeter at the Mailardevpally police station in the Cyberabad Police Commissionerate, allegedly attacked the security personnel with a sharp object at a land-based casino operated at a star hotel in Panaji, Goa. **(SEE PAGE 2)**



The first batch of women cadets perform push-ups during the passing out parade of the 148th course of the National Defence Academy in Pune. The women graduated alongside over 300 male counterparts, marking the passing out of NDA's first co-ed batch. — Photo: IANS

KTR showcases Telangana as global growth model

Makes strong pitch for investments during London summit

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Despite in the opposition, BRS working president KT Rama Rao made a strong pitch for investments in India, especially in progressive States like Telangana, calling it a "fine balance between development and welfare."

He projected Telangana as a global case study in sustainable growth, innovation and inclusive governance. "We have shown the world that remarkable transformation is possible with visionary leadership and people-centric policies," he said, delivering the keynote address on 'Why Telangana Matters: Steady Growth and Navigating the Global Eco-



BRS working president KT Rama Rao delivering the keynote address at the Bridge India Week 2025 conference in London.

nomic Landscape' at the prestigious Bridge India Week 2025 conference in London on Friday.

He explained Telangana's rise from 12th to first in per

capita income within a decade, marking a 156 per cent increase. He attributed this to the BRS government's balanced approach between development and

welfare under former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao's leadership. "No other State has achieved this scale of inclusive progress in independent India," he said.

He cited the Kaleshwaram project, calling it India's answer to China's Three Gorges Dam, as a feat of engineering and political will, completed in just three years with full compliance and rehabilitation. "It now irrigates 45 lakh acres seasonally," he said.

Calling Telangana an innovation-driven economy, he said under Mission Bhagiratha, it became the first State to ensure safe drinking water to every household using surface water, a milestone still unachieved elsewhere in India. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Terror will be trampled upon: PM

KARAKAT/KANPUR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday likened terrorism to a serpent to issue a stern warning that terror will be dragged out of its hole and trampled if it tries to raise its hood again. Hours later, he also said Operation Sindoor was "just an arrow in the quiver" of India and was not over yet.

Addressing rallies in Bihar's Karakat and Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh, he said India demonstrated the power of its indigenous weapons during Operation Sindoor which made "Pakistan plead to stop the war".

He also asserted that the Indian armed forces have reduced to rubble the hideouts of those who had masterminded the Pahalgam attack, sitting in Pakistan.

In Karakat, Modi said the enemy must realise that Operation Sindoor was "just an arrow in our quiver. The war on terror is neither over nor has it come to a halt". "If terror tries to raise its hood again, it will be dragged out of its hole and trampled," he added.

He said the "power of sindoor (vermilion) worn by India's daughters was witnessed by Pakistan and the entire world". **(SEE PAGE 2)**

NGT notice to TG over Godavari river pollution

NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal has sought a reply from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and others in a matter regarding the alleged severe pollution in the Godavari river, particularly in Telangana, caused by unchecked discharge of industrial effluents and untreated sewage.

The green body was hearing a matter where it had taken suo motu (on its own) cognisance of a media report, which claimed that pollution levels in Telangana's stretch of the river had reached a critical point, with districts such as Adilabad, Karimnagar, Warangal and Khammam being the worst affected.

"News items further state that in Bhadrachalam, the river water has turned black and emits a foul odour, making it unfit for human use," said a Bench of NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava and expert member A Senthil Vel in an order dated May 29. "The news

item reports that Maharashtra's 300 km stretch of the Godavari, from Nashik to Paithan, is experiencing extremely high organic pollution, with elevated BOD levels that threaten aquatic life," the order added.

The Bench noted the report, as per which "heavy metal contamination in Aurangabad and Paithan has resulted in excessive levels of iron, zinc, nickel and copper, rendering the water unsafe for consumption" and that "the pollution crisis" was intensifying in "Andhra Pradesh, particularly from Rajamahendravaram to the Dowleswaram barrage, identified as one of the most polluted segments of any river in India".

"The news item states that agricultural runoff, including fertilisers and pesticides from fields near Nashik and Nanded, flows into the river without any filtration," it said. The report revealed "substantial issues" regarding compliance with environmental norms, it said. **PTI**

Indian-American with Hyd roots wins Spelling Bee

NEW YORK

Faizan Zaki, a 13-year-old Indian-American student from Texas, has won the Scripps National Spelling Bee after he spelt " claircissement" correctly, maintaining the dominance of the children from the community in the prestigious US competition.

Zaki bested Sarvadnya Kadam to win the 2025 Scripps National Spelling Bee on Thursday night. A 7th-grade student at CM Rice Middle School, Zaki finished second in 2024 in a

spell-off to another Indian-American Bruhat Soma.

This was Zaki's fourth time participating in the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Zaki earned the prestigious title in round 21 when he correctly spelt " claircissement," which is defined as "the clearing up of something obscure: enlightenment." He outlasted eight other accomplished spellers to win the title on Thursday night.



Faizan Zaki

home in Hyderabad. "I can't describe it," Zaki said minutes later. "It's so amazing, getting to this point. Winning? I never expected this."

Adam Symson, president and CEO of the EW Scripps Company, presented the

championship trophy. "Faizan exemplified the determination that defines a champion," said Symson. His unwavering focus and preparation led to a well-earned victory tonight on the Bee's largest stage, he said.

"In this landmark 100th year of the Scripps National Spelling Bee, Scripps is honoured to celebrate Faizan's extraordinary achievement as well as the spellers throughout the Bee's history who continue to inspire millions," he said.

"Their stories remind us of the shared joy in cheering for their success, reinforcing the Bee's legacy as a beloved tradition that, for a century, has championed connection, resilience and the limitless potential of young minds," Symson said.

The first Spelling Bee was held in 1925 in Washington, DC, and only nine kids participated, according to Scripps. This year, over 200 competed. Zaki is only the fifth speller in Bee history to win after coming in second place the year before. **PTI**